

Acne management

Adjudication Guideline

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Pharmaceutical

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1. Abstract

1.1 For Members

Acne is a skin problem that starts when oil and dead skin cells clog up pores. Some people call it blackheads, blemishes, whiteheads, pimples, or zits. Just a few red spots, or pimples, are a mild form of acne. Severe acne can mean hundreds of pimples that can cover the face, neck, chest, and back or it can be bigger, solid, red lumps that are painful (cysts).

Acne is commonly classified as mild, moderate and severe or inflammatory & non-inflammatory. Acne may be treated with a combination of remedies including over-the counter skin care acne medications, and chemical or laser procedures.

Treatment of acne is considered to be cosmetic in nature, and is not covered for all plans administered by Daman, except in cases of infected acne and severe cystic acne where it is considered medically necessary.

1.2 For Medical Professionals

Based on the general exclusion of Daman's various policies, treatment of acne is considered to be cosmetic in nature, and is not covered for any health insurance plan administered by Daman unless proven otherwise to be medically necessary.

Daman considers treatment of the following types of acne medically necessary, if the treatment rendered is not targeted towards treating the signs and symptoms which are cosmetic in nature:

- Infected acne (if the treatment rendered is targeted towards treating the infection)
- Severe cystic acne

Isotretinoin (systemic) is a schedule drug- used for management of infected acne- always requires authorization.

Isotretinoin tablets should only be prescribed by dermatologist.

Pretreatment Isotretinoin (systemic) laboratory tests are covered as per the international best practice.

2. Scope

This guideline highlights Daman's adjudication policy on the treatment of acne for all health insurance plans administered by Daman.

3. Adjudication Policy

3.1 Eligibility / Coverage Criteria

Daman considers treatment of the following types of acne medically necessary, if the treatment rendered is not targeted towards treating the signs and symptoms which are cosmetic in nature:

- Infected acne (if the treatment rendered is targeted towards treating the infection)
- Severe cystic acne

3.2 Requirements for Coverage

ICD and CPT codes must be coded to the highest level of specificity.

3.3 Non-Coverage

Based on the general exclusion of Daman's various policies, treatment of acne is considered to be cosmetic in nature and is not covered for any health insurance plan administered by Daman unless proven otherwise to be medically necessary.

3.4 Payment and Coding Rules

Please apply DOH payment rules and regulations and relevant coding manuals for ICD, CPT, etc.

4. Denial Codes

| Code | Code description |
|----------|---|
| MNEC-004 | Service is not clinically indicated based on good clinical practice |
| PDL-O1 | Service(s) is (are) not covered |
| NCOV-003 | Diagnosis(es) is (are) not covered |
| CODE-O10 | Clinician ID cannot bill this drug |
| MNEC-005 | Service/Supply may be appropriate, but too frequent |
| CODE-014 | Activity/diagnosis is inconsistent with the patient's age/gender |

5. Appendices

5.1 References

- https://www.uptodate.com/contents/treatment-of-acnevulgaris?search=acne%20treatment&source=search_result&selectedTitle=1~150&usage_type=default&display_rank=1#H4114226234
- Guidelines of care for the management of acne vulgaris
<https://www.aad.org/.../Quality%20care%20and%20guidelines/Acne-guideline.pdf>
- <https://bestpractice.bmj.com/topics/en-us/101/treatment-algorithm>
- Isotretinoin 20mg Soft Capsules - Summary of Product Characteristics (SmPC) - (emc)

5.2 Revision History

| Date | Version No. | Change(s) |
|------------|-------------|---|
| 01/07/2013 | V1.0 | New Template |
| 15/07/2014 | V2.0 | Disclaimer updated as per system requirements Restored original effective date |
| 09/01/2019 | V3.0 | Content update |
| 6/12/2024 | V4.0 | Release of new template |
| 14/05/2025 | V5.0 | Change reference number under Pharmaceutical |

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